

1 HONORABLE RONALD B. LEIGHTON
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

9 ANNE BLOCK, an individual,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 WASHINGTON STATE BAR
ASSOCIATION, et al,

13 Defendant.

CASE NO. C15-2018RSM

14 ORDER DENYING MOTION TO
RECUSE

15 THIS MATTER is before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Recusal of Judge Leighton
[Dkt. #27].

16 Under 28 U.S.C. § 144 and 28 U.S.C. § 455, recusal of a federal judge is appropriate if a
17 reasonable person with knowledge of all the facts would conclude that the judge's impartiality
18 might reasonably be questioned. *Yagman v. Republic Insurance*, 987 F.2d 622, 626 (9th Cir.
19 1993). "In the absence of specific allegations of personal bias, prejudice, or interest, neither
20 prior adverse rulings of a judge nor his participation in a related or prior proceeding is sufficient"
21 to establish bias. *Davis v. Fendler*, 650 F.2d 1154, 1163 (9th Cir. 1981); *see also Liteky v.*
22 *United States*, 510 U.S. 540, 555 (1994) ("judicial rulings alone almost never constitute valid
23 basis for a bias or partiality motion.").

1 Plaintiff's allegations that Judge Leighton has read articles on Plaintiff's blog is patently
2 false. The fact that Judge Leighton previously mentored one attorney who is a member of the
3 WSBA, that the Judge is a WSBA judicial member, has taught CLEs, and has spoken at WSBA
4 events, are not evidence of any bias or impropriety. Contrary to Plaintiff's claims, the remaining
5 District Judges' mere WSBA membership does not impede their ability to preside impartially
6 over a case in which the bar association is a party. Plaintiff has not raised any allegations that
7 would indicate a judge's "impartiality might *reasonably* be questioned." 28 U.S.C. § 455
8 (emphasis added). If the motion were granted, it would delay the dismissal of this frivolous
9 action, resulting in further waste of the Court's and taxpayers' time and money. Plaintiff's
10 motion is **DENIED**.

11 Dated this 3rd day of March, 2016.

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13 Ronald B. Leighton

14 Ronald B. Leighton
United States District Judge

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